



**SUNDAY BULLETIN**  
**April 14, 2024**

**4th Sunday of Great Lent:**  
**St John Climacus**



**SAINTS MARKELLA & DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9am – 2pm

## **4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age,<sup>1</sup> his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skētē and Tabēnnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.



Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing *The Ladder* at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

## Holy Week Schedule

Saturday, April 27

Lazarus Saturday

Matins 8:45am, Liturgy 10am

Holy Week Preparation

Sunday, April 28

Palm Sunday

Matins 8:45am, Liturgy 10am

Philoptochos Luncheon

Bridegroom Service 6pm

Monday, April 29

No Bible Study

Bridegroom Service 6pm

Tuesday, April 30

Bridegroom Service 6pm

Wednesday, May 1

Holy Unction 6pm

Thursday, May 2

Vesperal Liturgy 9am

Passion Service 6pm

Friday, May 3

Epitaphion Decoration 10am

Taking Down From Cross

Service 2pm

Lamentations Service 6pm

Saturday, May 4

Vesperal Liturgy 9am

Matins 11:30pm

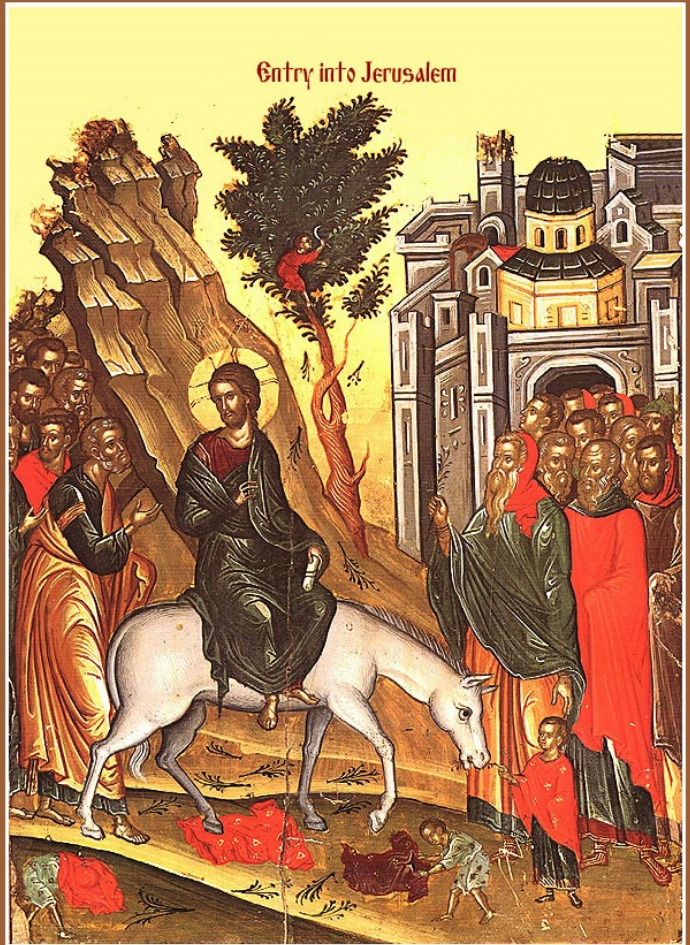
Sunday, May 5

Great and Holy Pascha

Resurrection Service Midnight

Agape Vespers 11am

Pascha Banquet and Easter Egg Hunt





## **HYMNS FOR THE DAY**

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion, Mode 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!"

### **Apolytikion for the Devout Man, Mode pl. 4**

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

### **Apolytikion of St. Markella, Mode 1**

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

### **Apolytikion of St. Demetrios, Mode 3**

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, to grant us great, great mercy!

### **Kontakion, Mode pl. 4**

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

# **EPISTLE READING**

## **Hebrews 6:13-20**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

# **GOSPEL READING**

## **Mark 9:17–31**

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

## **TODAY**

### **4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus**

Altar Group Today: Chrysostom

Chrismation of Billy Pugh

Philoptochos Planning Meeting 12:15pm

Western Conference Oratorical Festival at Annunciation Greek  
Orthodox Church in Pensacola 1pm

## **THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

### **Monday, April 15**

Bible Study 9am-Zoom

### **Wednesday, April 17**

Presanctified Liturgy 6pm

Lenten Fellowship Meal to Follow

### **Friday, April 19**

Akathist Hymn 6pm



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Website: [www.stmarkella.org](http://www.stmarkella.org)

**Narthex Committee:** *Elizabeth Pugh –Chair John Walker –Co-Chair,  
Aaron Bradley, Liora Fallon, Cristina Jackson, Evelyn Mosley, Steve Paros*  
**Altar:** *Tim Boolos –Altar Group Leader, Christian Meyers –Alternate Leader*  
**Group Chrysostom:** *Sasha Butterworth, Vova Gurkovsky, Cosmas Mosley,  
Bartholomew Mosley, Jonas Mosley, Michael Simpson*  
**Group Basil:** *Levi Bigham, Gabriel Fallon, Jonathan Morgan,  
Damian Mosley, Gabriel Mosley, Michael Mosley*  
**Music:** *Matthew Morgan, -Choir Director*  
*Chanters –Darin Bell, Andrew McBroom, Megan Morgan, Alex Pugh*  
**Video:** *Darin Bell*

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **WESTERN CONFERENCE ORATORICAL FESTIVAL - DATE CHANGE**

In order to accommodate those presenters who will be taking the ACT entrance exam, the date of the Western Conference Oratorical Festival has been changed to Sunday, today at 1:00 pm. The event will still be held at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Pensacola.

## **32ND PARISH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL**

Sunday, April 7, following Liturgy we had our Parish Oratorical. Our judges were Lark Bostick, Margaret Morrison and Tim Boolos. Mary Gardner was timekeeper. We had 3 speakers in the Senior Division (Michael Mosley, Jonas Mosley, Jonathan Morgan), 3 in the Junior Division (Vova Gurkovsky, Gabriel Mosley, Cosmos Mosley) and 1 (Sasha Butterworth) in the Elementary Division. Our Finalists heading for the District Oratorical in Pensacola on Sunday, April 14 are Jonas Mosley in the Senior Division with Vova Gurkovsky and Gabriel Mosley in the Junior Division.

## **PALM SUNDAY DESSERTS**

Please join Philoptochos as they host the Palm Sunday Luncheon on Sunday, April 28. Bring your favorite Lenten Dessert and enjoy food and fellowship!

## **AUTOMATED CLEANING DEVICE**

We have been blessed to receive a donated automated cleaning device. This cleaning device is in the fellowship hall sitting in its recharging/home docking station. We have worked hard to program the device to mop and clean the hall floor. Please refrain from turning on or using the device as this may disrupt its programming. Thank you.



Following today's Liturgy,  
please join us for  
Fellowship Hour in the  
Barbara "Cookie" Kostopoulos  
Fellowship Hall

This week is:  
**Elizabeth Pugh & Co.**

Next week is:  
**Tim & Vicki Boolos**

**Thank You to The Vlahos Family for Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 7, 2024!**

## **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your joining us. For those who are not Orthodox Christians, we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive it at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way.

# PRAY FOR OUR LOVED ONES

The Community is praying for the following:

|                        |                         |                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erica Ailes            | Zachary Fletcher        | Janice Parton             |
| Joy Ailes              | Betty Floyd             | Anastas and Betsy Pazevic |
| Jan Aker               | Angie Furst             | Judy Savage               |
| Vasio Arvanites        | Dean Gigicos            | Edward Scruggs            |
| Nolan Baker            | Diana Green             | & Family                  |
| Rebecca Baker          | Brian Guthrie           | George Sigalos            |
| Judy Bradley           | Diana Guthrie           | Melissa Simpson           |
| Donna Branch           | Demetrios Hadjisimos    | Stanojka Stevanovic       |
| Kathy Bowdoin & Family | Shannon Holst           | David Stewart             |
| Larry Broadus          | Jake Hoskin             | Janet Sutherland          |
| Christopher Brockman   | Mallory Howard          | Susan Tringas             |
| Kevin Byrne            | Katheryn Kaffoglou      | Ireni, Vasiliki, John and |
| Penelope Calabrese     | Mary Spiridoula Kalista | Andrew Vallianatos        |
| Mary Campbell          | George and Julia Karov  | Dana Visioiu              |
| Litsa Carrion          | Julie Mamani            | Badra Walters             |
| Charles B. Chapman     | Marika Maris            | Mary Walters              |
| Vonni Cobb             | Kelly Maris             | Dwight Ward               |
| Angela Walters Comfort | Angela McBroom          | Nikole G. Webb            |
| Max Copeland           | Ariel McBroom           | Gary Wilson               |
| Betty Dodson           | Nicholas McBroom        |                           |
| Jamie Douglas          | Andrew Michas           | All service men and women |
| Dorothy Eshelman       | George Michas           | who are deployed overseas |
| Tim Feeney             | Nina Michas             |                           |
| Shirley Feltman        | Rebecca Pallone         |                           |

## 2024 PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

|                              |                            |                 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
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| Nathanael Mosley-Treasurer   | nathanaelmosley@gmail.com  | (770)756-8684 C |
| Lark Bostick                 | larkbreeze@gmail.com       | 496-1906 C      |
| Terri Grammas                | mudbugpots@gmail.com       | 624-8815 C      |
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| Gregg Mullen                 | g.j.m.2016@gmail.com       | (732)615-7059 C |
| Gary Wilson                  | gtwilson99@yahoo.com       | (316)322-5791 C |



# STEWARDSHIP

*We are very grateful to our Families for their 2024 Stewardship*

Charles and Margaret Abbate  
Anthony and Miriam Aldehneh  
Alex Balan and Nikolina Nisiewicz  
Jacob and Courtney Batt  
Tim and Vicki Boolos  
Lark Bostick

Aaron and Trina Bradley  
Axel and Eleftheria Carrion

Mary Cook-Dennis  
Maria Coukoulis  
Barbara Denamur  
Harold and Anita Diamond  
Keith and Rebecca Fletcher  
Malpa Fuller

Carlo and Stella Gammaitoni  
Alan and Mary Gardner  
Traven Gardner  
Ion and Ana Ghetiu

Lena, Alexander and Erik Giannios  
Terri Grammas  
Suzan Bosnake Greer  
Charlie and Meagan Haje  
Alexandra Jazayeri  
Georgia Jensen

Andrew and Angela McBroom  
Louis and Maria McCloud  
Dr. Elizabeth Michas

Dr. and Mrs. George and Nina Michas  
John and Connie Morgan  
Matthew, Megan and

Jonathan Morgan  
Robert and Margaret Morrison  
Nathanael and Sarah Mosley

Joe and Despina O'Neil  
Garry and Patti Overholt  
Nicholas and Tanya Papadopoulos  
Samuel and Nora Pappas  
Christian and Adriana Parfene  
Steve and Veta Paros

Anastas and Betsy Pazevic  
Scott and Katarina Potter

The Pugh Family  
Joann Yanora Salazar  
David and Allison Schutte

Benjamin Siege  
The Simpson Family  
Angelos and Katrina Thomas  
Karl and Sandy Trammel  
Nicholas, Candace,  
Kosta, Wynnie and Fields Vlahos

John Walker  
Fr. John and Presv. Mary Wallace  
Laura Wallace  
Joyce Walter  
Gary and Teresa Wilson

*Thank You to Our Anonymous Donors - "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (Matt. 6:3) Thank you to our anonymous donors who give of their resources with a request to remain unidentified. While we print the names of our stewards as per the regulations of the Archdiocese, we honor those who wish to remain anonymous. One encourages by public example while the other supports without attention; both Glorify God.*

# 32nd Oratorical Festival



# Sts. Markella & Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

## April 2024

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue                          | Wed  | Thu | Fri                           | Sat   |
|---|---|------------------------------|--|-----|-------------------------------|---|
|   | 1 Bible Study<br>9am -Zoom<br><br>Parish Council Agenda<br>Committee Meeting<br>5pm--Zoom | 2                            | 3<br>Presanctified Liturgy 6pm<br>Lenten Fellowship Meal<br>to Follow  | 4   | 5<br>Salutations Service 6pm  | 6   |
| 7 Sunday of the Holy<br>Cross<br>Matins 8:45am<br>Liturgy 10am<br>St. John Chrysostom<br>Oratorical Festival<br>following Liturgy   | 8<br>Bible Study<br>9am -Zoom<br><br>Parish Council Meeting<br>6pm-Zoom                   | 9                            | 10<br>Presanctified Liturgy 6pm<br>Lenten Fellowship Meal<br>to Follow | 11  | 12<br>Salutations Service 6pm | 13  |
| 14 Sunday of St. John<br>Climacus<br>Matins 8:45am<br>Liturgy 10am<br>Philoptochos Planning<br>Meeting 12:15pm<br>Western Conference<br>Oratorical Festival at<br>Annunciation Greek<br>Orthodox Church—<br>Pensacola 1pm | 15<br>Bible Study<br>9am -Zoom  | 16                           | 17<br>Presanctified Liturgy 6pm<br>Lenten Fellowship Meal<br>to Follow | 18  | 19<br>Akathist Hymn 6pm       | 20  |
| 21 Sunday of St. Mary of<br>Egypt<br>Matins 8:45am<br>Liturgy 10am  | 22<br>Bible Study<br>9am -Zoom  | 23                           | 24<br>Presanctified Liturgy 6pm<br>Lenten Fellowship Meal<br>to Follow | 25  | 26                            | 27 Lazarus Saturday<br>Matins 8:45am<br>Liturgy 10am<br>Holy Week Preparation |
| 28 Palm Sunday<br>Matins 8:45am<br>Liturgy 10am<br>Philoptochos Luncheon<br>Bridegroom Service 6pm  | 29<br>No Bible Study<br><br>Bridegroom Service 6pm  | 30<br>Bridegroom Service 6pm |  |     |                               |   |



# PHILOPTOCHOS

## LENTEN TRIAD

PRAYING

FASTING

GIVING OF ALMS

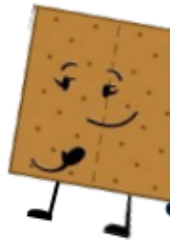


As a parish, let us each offer a box of

# CRACKERS

to Sharing and Caring of Okaloosa County.

Collection will be in the hallway of the Cookie Kostopoulos Fellowship Hall



## HIGHLIGHTING

ch-, ch-, ch- ch- CHANGES  
Palm Sunday Luncheon  
planning meeting

Sunday, April 14th  
after the Divine Liturgy  
around 12:15

April 7 meeting canceled

## SHARING AND CARING ADDITIONAL NEEDS:

- 16 oz cans: Pork & Beans, Corn, Green Beans, Whole Potatoes and Carrots
- 15 oz cans: Fruit Cocktail or any fruit
- 6.6oz cans: Tuna Fish, Chicken Breast or Roast Beef
- 12 oz cans: Spam or Meat
- 26.5 oz cans: Spaghetti Sauce-any variety
- 24 oz can Beef Stew
- 15 oz cans: Beef Ravioli or Spaghetti O's
- 16 oz pack: Dry Spaghetti
- 16.3 oz jar: Peanut Butter
- 1 lb bag: Rice or Dry Beans (black-eyed peas, lima beans, red kidney beans, etc)
- Canned or Dry Soup: any variety
- Macaroni and Cheese Dinner
- Cereal: Boxes or Bags
- Juice: any flavor bottle or can
- Bottled Water
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Jelly: any flavor
- Pop-Top Cans: Vienna Sausage, Tuna, Pork & Beans

